

General Speaks Here

Spy Plane Role Was Unique, Leader Says

The U-2 fulfilled "a unique role" in the United States intelligence system, the deputy director of the Central Intelligence Agency said here Tuesday night.

Gen. C. P. Cabell, a figure largely unknown by the public although he is the nation's No. 2 intelligence officer, made one of the few statements concerning the American spy plane to come from a CIA official.

He was asked in an interview if loss of the U-2 would materially hamper this nation's intelligence effort. The general, noting the "unique role" of the plane which was downed in the Soviet Union, said "we need all tools" to gather necessary information on Russia.

Addresses Doctor

He was asked if the "spy-in-the-sky" artificial satellite Sarnos was expected to replace the U-2. The general said he'd "rather not get into that," adding, however, that it would probably be "some time" before the satellite is operating.

General Cabell was in Fort Worth to address the Tarrant County Medical Society at the annual presentation of the gold-headed cane award at River Crest Country Club.

In the interview he discussed CIA's "gleaning" of newspapers and other publications from the Soviet Union as part of the intelligence function.

He was asked if electronic computers or other machines were expected to be used to speed up this process, which involves much translation.

Secret Operations

The general said machine translation was foreseen "in a few years."

The next question concerned the fact that only a relatively few congressmen know the size of the Central Intelligence Agency operation. The general was asked what proportion of CIA employees are in "cloak-and-dagger" work.

He pointed out that any answer would depend on what definition is applied to "cloak-and-dagger work."

"It would depend on whether you draw the line at just the agent himself or the person who handles the agent or the group that is behind them or the office that is back of it all," he said.

Two Political Jobs

The general was asked what offices in CIA were political appointments. He said that only the position of the director, held by Allen W. Dulles, and his own job were appointments made by the President.

He said that CIA is "and must remain" non-political, that whether an employee is a Democrat or Republican is never a question asked.

General Cabell said he "assumed" he would be retained along with Dulles under the new administration.

The last question in the interview was whether there had ever been any "preponderance of evidence" in indicating that the Khrushchev regime was toppling.

"Not Weak Regime"

The general said there had not been. He labeled as "wishful thinking" periodic reports that the Russians were on the verge of revolution or that the present leaders were being overthrown.

In his prepared speech, General Cabell said that "it is not a weak regime. The (Communist) party, which dominates the government, is supported by a dedicated and efficient managerial class, which runs the economy, the military machine and the populace."

He emphasized that the goal of communism is world conquest. But, "at this time," he said, "our best intelligence judgment is that the Soviet leaders have themselves acquired enough common sense to recognize that if they were to launch a military attack, they would suffer crippling devastation in return."